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PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW SUBSPECIES OF PYGMY RICE RAT (*ORYZOMYS  
FULVESCENS*) FROM CHIAPAS, MÉXICO

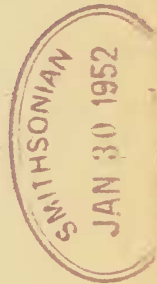
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In his review of the species *Oryzomys fulvescens* Goldman (N. Amer. Fauna, 43, 1918) treated all samples from Chiapas, México, under the name *O. f. fulvescens*. Apparently his specimens from Chiapas were essentially like those from the state of Veracruz, in which is located the type locality of *O. f. fulvescens*. An analysis of variation in the samples contained in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology yields a different picture of geographic variation in the species in extreme southern Mexico. Three geographic races apparently are represented in the series before me: (1) A sample of 11 specimens from Bochil and one specimen from Las Margaritas, Chiapas, are to me indistinguishable from specimens of *O. f. fulvescens* from Molango, Hidalgo, and Huauchinango, Puebla. (2) Samples from the Río de Chiapa Valley and tributary valleys are unlike both those from the mountainous region to the north (Bochil and Las Margaritas) and those from the Pacific lowlands to the south. The specimens from localities in those interior valleys (Cintalapa, Villa Flores and Prusia) are paler dorsally and ventrally. The buffy bands of the hairs are paler and slightly less ochraceous. The underparts tend to be whitish or Pale Pinkish Buff, as compared with Light Pinkish Cinnamon or Cinnamon in *fulvescens*. Eighty per cent of 88 specimens from Villa Flores, Cintalapa and Prusia are darker than 80 per cent of 17 specimens from Bochil, Hidalgo and Puebla. In coloration those 88 specimens resemble specimens of *lenis* from Jalisco and Nayarit more than they do those from Bochil, Hidalgo and Puebla. It seems probable that the range of *lenis* extends southward from southern Nayarit to the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, thence inland in Chiapas at least to Villa Flores and Prusia. (3) Samples from the Pacific lowlands are unique. There is reason for inferring that they represent another race, heretofore undescribed.

*Oryzomys fulvescens pacificus*, new subspecies

*Holotype*.—Male (molar teeth slightly worn), skin and skull; Univ.



Mich. Mus. Zool. No. 96764; México, Chiapas, Mapastepec, 150 feet elevation; collected 7 November 1949 by Helmuth O. Wagner; original No. 5384.

*Distribution.*—Pacific coastal lowlands of Chiapas and probably of western Guatemala. Known geographic range from Arriaga southeast to Mapastepec. Known vertical range from approximately 50 feet at Pijijiapan to approximately 300 feet at Arriaga.

*Characters and Comparisons.*—A geographic race of *Oryzomys fulvescens* characterized by short, monocolored tail, dark ochraceous-buffy upper parts and light buffy underparts. Coloration similar to that of *O. f. fulvescens*; underparts perhaps slightly paler. Tail scarcely or not at all paler ventrally than dorsally (bicolor in *fulvescens*) and absolutely and relatively shorter (the mean tail length and its standard error of the sample of *pacificus* from Mapastepec is  $97.0 \pm 1.9$  mm., compared with  $113 \pm 1.8$  mm. in the sample of *fulvescens* from Bochil). Upper parts darker, the buffy hue more ochraceous than in *lenis*; tail monocolored and shorter (averaging 121 per cent of head and body length in the sample of *pacificus* from Mapastepec and 137 per cent in a series of *lenis* from Jalisco and Nayarit). To judge from the one specimen of *mayensis* at hand and from Goldman's description of that race (N. Amer. Fauna, 43: 92, 1918) *pacificus* differs from *mayensis* in much the same way as it contrasts with *lenis*, namely in paler coloration and monocolored and shorter tail.

*Color.*—Upper parts Ochraceous-Tawny, darkened on back by numerous black guard hairs. A Cinnamon lateral line. Underparts varying from whitish to Light Pinkish Cinnamon, the mean of the specimens at hand near Pale Pinkish Cinnamon. Hairs of body Blackish Plumbeous basally except on throat where they are white throughout. Muzzle dusky. Ears Fuscous-Black distally, Fuscous basally. Pre-auricular tuft Ochraceous-Tawny. Upper surfaces of forefeet and hind feet white. Tail Fuscous all around.

*Measurements.*—Averages and extremes in mm. of 11 adults from Mapastepec: total length, 178 (155-190); tail, 97 (86-105); hind foot, 21 (20-23); ear from notch (fresh), 13 (11-14); greatest length of skull, 22.0 (20.7-23.0); zygomatic breadth, 11.4 (10.8-12.1); breadth of brain case (measured dorsal to the zygomatic processes of the squamosal), 9.9 (9.6-10.2); breadth of rostrum (measured on capsules anterior to zygomatic plate), 4.3 (4.0-4.7); length of rostrum (from superior, inner border of zygomatic arch to tip of nasal on same side of skull), 7.2 (6.6-7.7); length of palate, 3.4 (3.3-3.6); alveolar length of molar row, 3.1 (2.9-3.3).

*Remarks.*—If the data at hand are correctly interpreted, the racial picture of *Oryzomys fulvescens* in Chiapas is as follows: *O. f. fulvescens* inhabits the Atlantic slopes of central Chiapas at least as far south as Las Margaritas (about 15 miles east of Comitán). It is characterized by dark ochraceous upper parts and underparts and long, bicolored tail. A paler, longtailed form that is similar to if not identical with *O. f. lenis* ranges in the semi-arid valleys in the central part of the state, across the southern part (at least) of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, thence northward on the Pacific lowlands. If it is identical with *lenis*, its northern limit, as indicated by specimens at hand, lies in the vicinity of Ixtlán del Río and Santa Isabel, southern Nayarit. *O. f. pacificus*,

characterized by light buffy underparts and short, monicolor tail, inhabits the humid coastal lowlands of southern Chiapas and probably of adjoining parts of Guatemala. Specimens of *Oryzomys fulvescens* from Hacienda California, Guatemala, erroneously listed by Goodwin (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., 68: 35, 1934) under the name *Reithrodontomys fulvescens*, have the short tail of *O. f. pacificus*. The three races, *fulvescens*, *lenis*, and *pacificus* are distinguished on characters of coloration and size. If their crania differ significantly, those differences are not apparent in the samples at hand.

*Specimens examined*.—Twenty-two from the following localities in Chiapas, México: Arriaga, 300 ft., 1; Mapastepec, 150 ft., 17; Pijijiapan, 50 ft., 4.